



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held October 12, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Molina and Knabe:

“Latino AIDS Awareness Day for Los Angeles County will coincide with National Latino AIDS Awareness Day on October 15, 2004 and will provide an opportunity to increase community awareness and dialogue, to commemorate those lost, and bring leaders together to advocate for greater services and community involvement to fight this epidemic. The theme for National Latino AIDS Awareness Day 2004 is, *Abre Los Ojos: El VIH No Tiene Fronteras (Open Your Eyes: HIV Has No Borders)*.

“The HIV epidemic is spreading into more segments of the Latino community, and the health of those with AIDS is worsening. According to the Center for Disease Control, the rate of new HIV infections among Latinos rose by 26% last year. Because of stigma and fear associated with being HIV infected, the average time from testing HIV positive to being diagnosed with an AIDS defining condition for most Latinos is less than six months. The nearly nine-year decline in deaths among Latinos due to HIV/AIDS is now reversing for a range of reasons, including the rising cost of medications, scarcity of medical treatment, increased resistance to existing medication, and lack of adherence to treatment due to serious side effects and strict regimens. Anti-immigration policies also limit access to care for thousands of Latinos.

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“In Los Angeles County, Latinos represent 40% of those people living with AIDS compared with 20% of those diagnosed nationally. Latinas account for 42% of women living with AIDS, and an estimated 75% of new HIV infections in the Latino Community occur among young and adult Latino gay and bisexual men who are in need of specifically developed HIV prevention messages, strategies and interventions.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried, the Board proclaimed October 15, 2004 as “Latino AIDS Awareness Day” throughout Los Angeles County; and encouraged all County residents to learn about the risks and harms associated with the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

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Copies distributed:

- Each Supervisor
- Chief Administrative Officer
- County Counsel
- Director of Health Services